UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/AC.46/1998/3/Add.6
22 January 1998

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Intergovernmental working group of experts
on human rights of migrants
Second session
Geneva, 16 - 20 February 1998

INFORMATION AND COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS, UNITED NATIONS BODIES, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Report of the Secretary-General

ANNEX

Submission from the International Movement Against
All forms of Discrimination and Racism

GE.98-10250

Geneva, 21st January 1998

Re.: Questionnaire on human rights of migrants

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to your letter dated 2 December 1997 requesting for information in reply to a questionnaire prepared by the experts members of the Working Group on the Rights of Migrants, the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism is pleased to submit attached herewith relevant information which our organisation has received from a member of ours in Sri Lanka. More information is also expected to be sent to our office in Geneva later this month.

IMADR hopes that this information will be of some use to the work of the Working Group for its forthcoming session in February.

Yours faithfully,

Atsuko Tanaka

Atsuko Tanaka
IMADR- UN Office, Geneva

INFORMATION FROM SRI LANKA IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE ON MIGRANTS IN THE COUNTRY

(submitted by IMADR, 21 January 1998)

1. Population of Sri Lanka:
   in total 18,315 million
   (male 9,336 million; female 8,979 million)

Approximately about 1 million workers are abroad.
In 1997, 162,551 have gone abroad, of which 70% are female.
Foreign Employment Bureau aims to increase 1.2 million by the year 2000.

2. The Government has taken following actions:

at local level:

a) All recruitment agencies must be registered under the Labour Ministry.

b) A levy is charged at the exit point to be utilised for the workers who need to be brought back to the country.
— This is some form of registration and insurance.

No other laws have been regulated. Though discussions are underway to draft labour agreements with West Asian countries.

3. The Government has ratified the Migrants' Convention (but it seems that the name of the Sri Lankan government has not yet appeared at the UN level).